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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/729,046	12/05/2003	Alexander M. Harmon	022956-0235	9312
21125	7590	05/15/2006		EXAMINER
				STEWART, ALVIN J
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				3738

DATE MAILED: 05/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/729,046	HARMON ET AL.
	Examiner Alvin J. Stewart	Art Unit 3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 March 2006.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6,9-13,20 and 23-27 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-6,9-13,20 and 23-27 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 20 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gregory US Patent 6,110,212 in view of Li et al US Patent 5,735,903.

Gregory discloses a biocompatible tissue implant comprising a biocompatible tissue slice having a geometry, the tissue slice including an effective amount of viable cells and further being dimensioned so that the cells can migrate out of the tissue (see Figs. 1 and 2; col. 1, lines 18-21; col. 3, lines 22-35 and lines 46-52).

Regarding claim 2, see col. 3, lines 46-52.

Regarding claims 4-6, see col. 5, lines 52-62.

Regarding claims 9, 10 and 25, the adhesive is at least one tissue layer welded by an energy source (see col. 6, lines 43-55; col. 7, lines 8-49; and col. 7, lines 59-61). However, Gregory does not disclose a retaining element.

Li et al teaches a tissue replacement device that is tied directly to natural tissue for the purpose of securing the implant to the patient's tissue site (see col. 16, lines 23-27).

Claims 11-13, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gregory US Patent 6,110212 in view of Li et al US Patent 5,735,903 as applied to claims 1-6, 9, 10, 20 and 23-25 above, and further in view of Brauker et al US Patent 6,773,458 B1.

Gregory in view of Li et al discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Gregory in view of Brauker et al does not disclose minced tissue fragments.

Brauker et al teaches a tissue implant comprising at least one minced tissue fragments.

Brauker et al teaches a tissue implant comprising at least one minced tissue fragment (with a size range of about 1 mm<sup>2</sup>) containing a plurality of viable cells for the purpose of increasing the biocompatibility of the implant (see col. 13, lines 51-59).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Gregory reference in view of Li et al with the Brauker et al reference in order to increase the biocompatibility of the implant.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 9-13, 20 and 23-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin J Stewart whose telephone number is 703-305-0277. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00AM-5:30PM(1 Friday B-week off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on 703-308-2111. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3590 for regular communications and 703-308-2708 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.

May 2, 2006.

*A. Stewart*  
ALVIN J. STEWART  
PRIMARY EXAMINER